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Strengthening of the United Nations system

Letter dated 18 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose, in my capacity as Chair of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Group in New York, the Final Communiqué of the Annual Coordination Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 2 October 2007 (see annex).

It is requested that the present letter and its annex be issued as a document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 9, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 27, 28, 32, 33, 34, 41, 42, 43, 48, 49, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58, 64, 68, 69, 70, 71, 73, 87, 94, 98, 101, 104, 108, 109, 116, 120, 121, 122 and 123 and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Munir **Akram**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 18 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Final communiqué of the annual coordination meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of States Members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference

United Nations Headquarters
New York

2 October 2007
20 Ramadan 1428

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the OIC Member States held their Annual Coordination Meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 2 October 2007, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Riaz Mohammad Khan, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Representative of the UN Secretary General attended the Meeting. The Meeting, after deliberation, adopted the following:

1. The Meeting emphasized its strong conviction about the central role that the United Nations, as the only universal multilateral organization, can and should play in strengthening global coordination and cooperation in dealing with global challenges and threats, and reaffirmed the determination of the OIC Member States to actively work with the United Nations along this line in accordance with its Charter. In this regard, the Meeting also reiterated that the United Nations remains an indispensable global mechanism for the promotion of a shared vision of a more secure and prosperous world. It, further, underscored that multilateralism and collective approaches, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, are essential tools in addressing the common threats and challenges.

2. The Meeting commended the efforts of the Secretary General in strengthening cooperation between the OIC and other regional and international organizations, particularly with the United Nations organs and bodies.

3. The Meeting reiterated adherence to the purposes, objectives and principles of the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and once again reaffirmed its commitment to the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the OIC Summit and Ministerial Conferences. The Meeting also reaffirmed the resolutions, Final Communiqué and Islamabad Declaration adopted by the 34th ICFM held in May 2007 in Islamabad.

4. The Meeting reaffirmed the need to speedily finalize drawing up a revised Charter to enhance the OIC's role to effectively meet the challenges of the 21st century. It commended the work of the OIC Secretary General and the Open Ended Working Group in Jeddah on the Review of the Charter and the progress achieved therein and called for finalizing the new revised Charter with a view to finalize it preferably in time for the 11th Islamic Summit Conference to be held in Dakar, Senegal in March 2008.

5. The Meeting invited all Member States to participate at the highest level and actively in the 11th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, to be held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, on 13-14 March 2008.

6. The Meeting reiterated devotion to the noble ideas of peace, humanism and tolerance to aptly respond to the challenges facing humanity in the 21st century. It further emphasized that recent defiances confronting Islam compel Member States to further unite around the values of Islam and display solidarity.

7. The Meeting supported the continuation of reforms in the economic, social and cultural areas, as well as in the spheres of democratization, transparency and strengthening the role of civil society in the OIC Member States and considered it important to protect cultural and religious diversity. It stressed that this diversity must not be a source of conflict but rather a source of mutual enrichment and dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations.

8. The Meeting expressed deep concern over the growing tendency towards Islamophobia and called on the international community for concrete measures and efforts to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding among civilizations, cultures and religions by promoting tolerance, respect for and freedom of religion and belief. In this regard, the Meeting welcomed the successful Thematic session on Islamophobia held at the 34th ICFM in Islamabad and reiterated its support in strengthening the Observatory of the General Secretariat of the OIC to combat Islamophobia and urged the Member States to fulfill their obligation to the Observatory by following the recommendations of the Thematic session.

9. The Meeting expressed its support to the Alliance of Civilizations initiative which is co-sponsored by Turkey and Spain under the aegis of the UN Secretary-General, aiming at facilitating harmony and dialogue by emphasizing the common values of different cultures and religions and urges all members of the international community to support the initiative.

10. The Meeting urged the Secretary General to continue with his positive efforts in engaging with the West in raising the true and correct image of Islam and reaching historical reconciliation among civilizations through a process of dialogue. It urged the Secretary General to work closely with the UN Secretary General towards the success of the UN Alliance of Civilizations. The Meeting also expressed its satisfaction on the decision of the Government of Kazakhstan to organize a Ministerial Conference between Islam and the West in 2008 and urged the Member States to give their support and cooperation for its successful outcome.

11. The Meeting paid special tribute to the President of Pakistan, General Pervez Musharraf, for his timely and important initiative on "Enlightened Moderation" which was adopted by the 10th Islamic Summit Conference through its resolution no. 45/10 P (IS). The Meeting also paid special tribute to the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, for the timely and important initiative on "Islam Hadhari" (Civilizational Islam).

12. The Meeting welcomed the initiative of Indonesia and Norway in convening the Second Global Inter-Media Dialogue in Oslo on 4-5 June 2007 which underscored the important role of the international mass media in promoting greater freedom of expression, increasing tolerance and mutual understanding among peoples of different cultural and religious backgrounds as well as in advancing peace.

13. The Meeting, while considering the importance of dialogue among civilizations and expansion of relations between the Islamic world and other cultures and civilizations, reiterated its commitment to broader contacts and exchanges and to the harmony of peace, freedom, rights and justice. In this regard, the Meeting recalled the following initiatives from the Islamic World: Dialogue among Civilizations-Iran; Religious and Cultural Understanding, Harmony and Cooperation-Pakistan; International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010-Bangladesh; Seminar on Islam and the West-Qatar; OIC-EU Joint Forum "Civilization and Harmony; The Political Dimension"-Turkey; the International Conference of Islamic Scholars-Indonesia, Declaration of the Second Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions-Kazakhstan, Alliance of Civilizations-co-sponsored by Turkey, and the International Conference on Islamic-Christian Dialogue in 2008 (Senegal) and "the International Conference on Islam and the West : Bridging the Gap" on 15-16 June 2007 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

14. The Meeting took note of the proposal of the Kyrgyz Republic to declare the World Day of Social Justice by appropriate UNGA resolution during the 62nd Session and recognized the interest for further efforts on this matter.

REGIONAL ISSUES

15. The Meeting recalled the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the "Prevention of Armed Conflict" which reaffirmed the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and the need to bring an end to situations of foreign occupation as a commitment by the international community to promote the culture of conflict prevention.

PALESTINE AND AL-QUDS AL-SHARIF

16. The Meeting *reaffirmed* the centrality of the cause of Al-Quds Al-Sharif for the whole Islamic Ummah. It affirmed the Arab nature of Occupied East Jerusalem and the need to defend the sanctity of Islamic and Christian holy places. It *reiterated* its strong condemnation of Israel, the occupying Power, for its persistent aggression on Islamic and Christian holy places in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, for its illegal excavations beneath the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and for its illegal measures intending to change the Holy City's status, demographic composition and character, in particular its illegal colonization practices, including its settlement activities and its construction of the Wall in and around the City.

17. The Meeting *condemned* the ongoing and intensifying Israeli military campaign against the Palestinian people by which Israel, the occupying Power, has continued to commit grave human rights violations and war crimes, including the killing and injuring of Palestinian civilians by use of excessive, indiscriminate and lethal force, as well as the continued practice of extrajudicial executions, the vast and widespread destruction of Palestinian properties, infrastructure, agricultural lands and other sources of livelihood, and the detention and imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians, including women and children. It *demanded* that Israel immediately cease all such violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law.

18. The Meeting *condemned* Israel's continued imposition of collective punishment upon the Palestinian people, including in particular the severe

restrictions on the movement of persons and goods via prolonged closures and hundreds of checkpoints, some of which have been transformed into permanent structures similar to international border crossings. It *stressed* that such illegal Israeli practices are in effect strangling the Palestinian economy and causing severe socio-economic and humanitarian hardships for the Palestinian civilian population. The Meeting called upon the international community to provide urgent assistance to alleviate the Palestinian hardships in this critical period.

19. The Meeting reiterated its grave concern and strong condemnation regarding Israel's continuing intensive campaign of settler colonialism, including vast land confiscations and the construction and expansion of illegal settlements. The Meeting also *reiterated* its condemnation of Israel's continuing construction of the Wall throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, in flagrant violation of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, and in total disrespect for the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice of 9 July 2004 and General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004. The Meeting emphasized that both the illegal settlements and the Wall are destroying the territorial contiguity and integrity of the Palestinian Territory and jeopardizing the establishment of a sovereign, viable, and independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. The Meeting demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, dismantle the illegal settlements and the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem.

20. The Meeting *called* for the urgent intensification of efforts by the Quartet and the entire international community, in particular the Security Council, to address the current political and humanitarian crisis, leading to the revival of the peace process and the resumption of negotiations between the two sides and the full and honest implementation of the Road Map towards ending the occupation of the Palestinian Territory that was occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem, and thus realizing the *two-state solution*. The Meeting noted the proposals for the revival of the Middle East peace process including the proposal to convene an international conference in the fall. It *emphasized* the importance of the decisions of the recent Arab Summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, especially the call for reinvigoration of the Arab Peace Initiative adopted in Beirut, Lebanon, on 28 March 2002, which calls for a comprehensive, just and permanent solution to the entire Arab-Israeli conflict. In this regard, the Meeting expressed its support to the efforts undertaken by the Arab Ministerial Committee on the Arab Peace Initiative.

21. The Meeting commended the Mecca Agreement on Palestinian National Reconciliation which was reached under the patronage of The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Adbulaziz Al-Saud and expressed its full appreciation for the efforts made by the Member States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference Secretary-General, in order to reach this Agreement.

22. The Meeting demanded that the situation that exists on the ground in the Gaza Strip be restituted to that which existed prior to the events of June 2007, to allow for the maintenance and preservation of the unity of the Palestinian people and land. In this connection, the Meeting stressed the need for national dialogue among Palestinians to achieve national reconciliation. It reaffirmed its full support for the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the Palestinian Authority, under the leadership of President

Mahmoud Abbas. The Meeting reaffirmed its support for all democratically-elected Palestinian institutions.

23. The Meeting *reaffirmed* the permanent responsibility of the United Nations towards the question of Palestine until it is resolved in all of its aspects. It *called upon* the United Nations to increase its efforts towards the achievement of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace based on international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002) and 1515 (2003) as well as agreed principles, which call for Israel's complete withdrawal from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and all other occupied Arab territories, the achievement of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination and sovereignty in their independent and viable State of Palestine, on the basis of the 1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, and a just resolution to the plight of the Palestine refugees in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194(III) of 11 December 1948.

24. The Meeting *recalled* General Assembly resolution 58/292 of 6 May 2004, on the "Status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem", and *stressed* the need for follow-up to ensure that Israeli credentials to the United Nations do not cover the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including East Jerusalem.

25. The Meeting expressed its support for the continuous regional and international contacts of His Majesty King MOHAMMED VI, Chairman of Al-Quds Committee, and its tireless efforts to revive the peace process in order to reach a comprehensive, lasting and just peace in the Middle East, contributing to stand up for the legitimacy of the Palestinian people's cause, and to preserve the Holy Land of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and its particular spiritual dimension.

26. The Meeting reaffirmed the previous resolutions of the Islamic Conferences supporting the City of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, and consolidating the steadfastness of its people, and calls upon the Member States to provide the necessary support to Bayt Mal Al-Quds Al-Sharif for the implementation of its program and plan of action, and to its mission in safeguarding the Arab, Islamic and civilizational character of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, in countering the continued illegal Israeli measures aimed at Judaizing the Holy City.

SYRIA

27. The Meeting strongly condemned Israel's policy of refusing to comply with Security Council resolution 497 (1981) concerning the occupied Syrian Golan and its policies of annexation, building of colonial settlements, confiscation of land, diversion of water sources and imposition of Israeli nationality upon Syrian citizens. It also demanded Israel to completely withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan to the June 4th 1967 lines in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), the principle of land for peace, the Madrid Peace Conference terms of reference and the Arab Peace Initiative, adopted by the Beirut Arab Summit on 28 March 2002. The Meeting also demanded Israel to release all Syrian detainees citizens of the Syrian occupied Golan, taking into consideration that some of them have been detained for more than 20 years.

28. The Meeting condemned threats against some Member States, particularly the Syrian Arab Republic, and condemned the decision of the US Administration to impose unilateral economic sanctions against Syria. It also condemned the so-called "Syria Accountability Act". It urged Member States to further strengthen their brotherly ties with Syria in all fields.

29. The Meeting condemned the Israeli aggressive violation of Syrian airspace on 6 September 2007, and supported Syria's sober-minded attitude towards Israeli escalation policies that aim to undermine the genuine and comprehensive peace process. The Meeting held Israel accountable for this irresponsible flagrant breach of Syrian sovereignty and expressed its solidarity with the Syrian Arab Republic.

LEBANON

30. The Meeting reiterated its support for Lebanon in its efforts to complete the liberation of all its territories up to the internationally recognized borders, and in its demands to release Lebanese prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons.

31. The Meeting also demanded the UN Security Council to act toward preventing the repeated Israeli violations of Lebanon's sovereignty in land, air and sea, and to force Israel to pay damages for all the losses sustained by the Lebanese territories as a result of its continuous aggressions against Lebanon. It supported Lebanon in its demands for the removal of the mines and cluster munitions left behind by the Israeli occupation and aggression, as Israel is responsible for laying and removing these mines and cluster munitions, and for the need to hand over full mines and cluster munitions location maps.

32. The Meeting called for a strict implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1701(2006), and in this respect called for a permanent cease fire, and for the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon with full respect for the Blue Line. It also expressed gratitude for the Troop Contributors Countries to the UNIFIL, and condemned strongly the terrorist attacks against them.

33. The Meeting emphasized the importance of the contribution of the United Nations in settling the issue of the Sheba'a Farms occupied by Israel in accordance with the Seven-Point Plan presented by the Lebanese Government and with UN Security Council Resolution 1701(2006), and called upon all relevant parties to cooperate with the United Nations to reach a solution to this issue. It also supported the inalienable rights of Lebanon to utilize its waters in accordance with the international law, condemned Israel's designs on these waters.

34. The Meeting condemned also in the strongest terms any attempt to destabilize Lebanon and its national unity, and supported the Lebanese Government in its efforts to bring to justice the criminals in the terrorist assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and his companions, and all subsequent terrorist acts, in order to put an end to impunity.

35. The Meeting strongly condemned the criminal and terrorist acts perpetrated by the so-called Fatah al-Islam against the Lebanese Army and the innocent civilians in northern Lebanon, which constitute an unacceptable threat against Lebanon's security and stability, and run contrary to the tenets and teachings of Islam. In this regard, it expressed its strong support to the efforts of the Government of Lebanon and its Army in order to restore peace and stability, and underlined the need to protect and assist the civilian population, including the Palestinian refugees.

36. The Meeting expressed its support to the Government of Lebanon in finding solutions to the problems raised by the presence of the armed Palestinian groups outside the Palestinian camps. The Meeting encouraged further assistance to Lebanon in order to prevent any illegal movements of arms and terrorists into Lebanon.

IRAQ

37. The Meeting strongly reaffirmed the imperative of respect by all for the sovereignty, political independence, national unity and territorial integrity of Iraq. It emphasized the right of the Iraqi people to freely determine their own political future and effectively control their own natural resources.

38. The Meeting acknowledged that a democratically elected and constitutionally based government of Iraq is now in place.

39. The Meeting welcomed the expansion and extension of the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), as envisaged in the Security Council resolution 1770 (2007).

40. The Meeting reaffirmed its continued support for the Iraqi people and government as they rebuild their country and reiterated the need to promote national dialogue, reconciliation and broad political participation to ensure unity, peace, security, stability and the cessation of sectarian violence.

41. The Meeting welcomed the announcement by Iraq to establish good relations between Iraq and its neighboring States and the steps already taken in this regard, based on mutual respect and the principle of non- interference in their internal affairs, as well as to abide by the existing treaties and agreements particularly those relevant to the internationally recognized border, and invited Iraq and its neighboring countries to actively cooperate to promote peace and stability in the region.

42. The Meeting welcomed the outcome of the expanded conference of Iraq's neighboring states held in Sharm El-Sheikh on the 4th of May 2007 and the three committees emanated for the conference namely (Energy, Refugee and Security). The Meeting also urged all Iraq's neighboring states to continue their cooperation and coordination with the government of Iraq in this regard.

43. The Meeting also expressed its full support for the efforts of the Iraqi government to stop violence and defeat terrorism through its reconciliation plan which is designed to offer an opportunity to the different political, religious and ethnic components of the Iraqi people to peacefully participate in the political process and to start building and reconstructing their country.

44. The Meeting emphasized the importance of the stability and security of Iraq for the people of Iraq, the region, and the international community.

45. The Meeting expressed support for the government's efforts to control Iraq's borders and security so as to serve independence and security in Iraq and the entire region. The Meeting stressed the importance of International support for security and stability in Iraq.

46. The Meeting strongly condemned the terrorist acts that were carried out and continue to be carried out against the Iraqi people, officials, sacred religious places

and civil institutions and called for the necessary assistance to curb violence and dry out the sources of terrorism.

47. The Meeting strongly condemned and deplored all acts of kidnapping and assassination directed against Iraqis and nationals of other countries.

48. The Meeting reaffirmed the urgent necessity of eliminating all terrorist and other armed groups present and those emanating from Iraqi territory, which constitute a danger to the security and stability of Iraq and its neighboring States, and encouraged the efforts of the Government of Iraq in this regard.

49. The Meeting also condemned all calls based on sectarianism which cause discord among the Iraqi people.

50. The Meeting welcomed the formal launch of the International Compact with Iraq on 3 May 200[illegible] n Sharm El-Sheikh as part of continued regional and international support for Iraq's development.

51. The Meeting supported the Iraqi government's efforts aimed at full control of all Iraqi resources for the betterment of the people's living conditions and the reconstruction of the State's institutions and national economy.

52. The Meeting called upon the Member States and international financial institutions to provide all forms of support and assistance to meet Iraq's needs and facilitate contributions and efforts designed to reactivate its organizational bodies, and economic institutions and infrastructure.

53. The Meeting also welcomed the commitment of the Paris Club to reduce substantially Iraq's sovereign debt and urged the other creditors to take similar decisions.

54. The Meeting reaffirmed the relevant Security Council Resolutions and urged the Iraqi Government to continue fulfilling all its obligations including the compensation. The Meeting also acknowledged the appeal of the Iraqi Government to review the compensation issue.

55. The Meeting condemned the mass killings of innocent Iraqis by the former regime and considered these as crime against humanity. The Meeting demanded the trial of those responsible and called upon Member States and the International community not to provide refuge to officials of the former regime who have committed such crimes against Iraqis and others.

56. The Meeting also underlined the necessity for all parties, including the multinational forces to respect the civil and religious rights of all Iraqi people as well as the preservation of the religious sites and cultural and historical heritage of Iraq.

57. The Meeting welcomed the efforts of the Iraqi Government and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to reconstruct the Holy Shrines attacked by terrorist acts in Iraq.

58. The Meeting called upon all the Member States to cooperate and to coordinate their efforts to combat the illegal trade and trafficking of Iraqi antiquities and help return those recovered to the Iraqi Museums.

59. The Meeting requested the OIC Secretary General to visit Iraq as soon as possible, recalling in this regard the recommendation of the first ministerial Meeting

of the executive committee of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC troikas) in Jeddah – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 15 March 2006.

60. The Meeting called upon the Secretariat to rapidly open the OIC coordination office in Baghdad in view of the circumstances and the urgent needs of Iraq and its people.

61. The Meeting stressed the need for non interference in the Iraqi affairs and the necessity of coordination with the representatives of the Iraqi people and its elected Government.

62. The Meeting called for the development of positive initiatives to support national dialogue among Iraqis and to contain division and sectarian violence and reaffirmed the call that "spilling Muslim blood is forbidden".

63. The Meeting recalled the successful precedent by the OIC in adopting the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Declaration on the Iraqi Situation on October 20th 2006. The Meeting also highlighted the need for a follow up to this important document.

KUWAITI AND IRANIAN PRISONERS OF WAR:

64. The Meeting condemned strongly the killing of Kuwaiti and Iranian Prisoners of War and third-country nationals by the former Iraqi regime; the Meeting also condemned the concealment of these crimes for over a decade by the former Iraqi regime, which is considered a violation of international humanitarian law. It called for the necessity of bringing the perpetrators of these crimes against humanity to trial.

AFGHANISTAN

65. The Meeting welcomed the establishment of representative political institutions, a free media, building of security sector institutions, improvements in the health and education sectors, human rights in Afghanistan and expressed its support to the efforts of the People and Government of Afghanistan to fight terrorism, counter the drugs problem, achieve security, stability and comprehensive and sustainable development.

66. The Meeting appreciated the assistance of Member States to Afghanistan and requested for more generous donations for the development of this country through the established Assistance Fund for the Afghan People and appealed to the international community to speedily provide the assistance it pledged to Afghanistan during the Tokyo 2002, Berlin 2004 and London 2006 Donor Conferences.

67. The Meeting welcomed the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the 34th ICFM (15-17 May 2007 in Islamabad) to holding an International Conference of the Ulema and the Muslim Scholars in Kabul, by Spring 2008, to discuss the noble principles of Islam and its role in the fight against Terrorism under the auspices of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

68. The Meeting reaffirmed its support to the people of Jammu & Kashmir for their legitimate right to self-determination, in accordance with the relevant UN Resolutions. It called for the full implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the OIC Mission led by the Secretary General's Special

Representative on Jammu & Kashmir. It called for the respect of the human rights of the Kashmiri people and for an end to their continuing violations. It urged India to allow the visit of an OIC Fact Finding Mission to the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir as well as other International Human Rights Organizations with a view to verifying the conditions of human rights in Indian occupied Kashmir.

69. The Meeting endorsed the recommendations of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu & Kashmir. It also took note of the Memorandum presented by the True Representatives of the Kashmiri people and reaffirmed the OIC's commitment to promote the just and peaceful solution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

70. The Meeting expressed its strong support to the ongoing Peace Process between Pakistan and India and appreciated the flexibility shown by President Musharraf in moving forward to the resolution of the Kashmir dispute through sincerity, flexibility and courage. It called upon India to positively reciprocate. Appreciating Pakistan's commitment to the ongoing dialogue with India, the Meeting emphasized that a just and final settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute being the core issue must lie at the heart of the dialogue process between Pakistan and India, with a view to making it result oriented and ensuring durable peace in the region.

ARMENIAN AGRESSION AGAINST AZERBAIJAN

71. The Meeting reiterated its condemnation of the continuing aggression by the Republic of Armenia against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which constitutes a blatant violation of the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. It called for total, unconditional, and immediate withdrawal of the Armenian forces from all occupied Azerbaijani territories.

72. The Meeting reiterated its determination to support the efforts of the Government of Azerbaijan aimed at removing the obstacles to the peace process, such as the transfer of settlers of Armenian nationality, practices of artificial geographic, cultural, and demographic alterations, unlawful economic activity, and exploitation of natural resources in those occupied territories. The Meeting condemned Armenia and demanded to stop these activities, as well as the continued destruction of Azerbaijani cultural and historical heritage, including Islamic monuments. The Meeting urged all Member States to further strengthen their solidarity with Azerbaijan and to extend their full support to its endeavors to achieve soon the restoration of complete sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

TURKISH CYPRIOTS

73. The Meeting reiterated its firm support for the just cause of the Muslim Turkish people of Cyprus and, within the context of the call made by the UN Secretary General in his Report of 28 May 2004 and of the previous OIC resolutions, reiterated its decision to put an end to the unjust isolation of the Turkish Cypriots and requested, once again, the Member States to closely associate with the Turkish Cypriots and to increase and expand their relations in all fields. Recalling the UN Comprehensive Settlement Plan aimed at establishing a new state of affairs in Cyprus in the form of a new bi-zonal partnership with two politically equal

constituent states, the Meeting acknowledged that neither side may claim authority or jurisdiction over the other and that the Greek Cypriots do not represent the Turkish Cypriots. The Meeting expressed its deep disappointment about the unwillingness on the part of the Greek Cypriot side to find a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus issue on the basis of the UN plan. The Meeting reaffirmed its adherence to the provisions of Resolution 6/34-P on the Situation in Cyprus adopted at the Thirty-Fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Islamabad on 15-17 May 2007, as well as the provisions of the previous OIC resolutions and the latest report of the Secretary General of the OIC on the situation in Cyprus contained in document ICFM/34-2007/POL/SG.REP.5.

SUDAN

74. The Meeting, while emphasizing its full solidarity with the Government and the people of the Republic of the Sudan, expressed its support to the efforts for national reconciliation, peace and lasting stability in the Republic of the Sudan, full respect of the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Sudan, and called upon the international community to further support these efforts and the reconstruction and development of the Country and meet the humanitarian needs of its people, including in Darfur.

75. The meeting took note of the positive developments in relation to Darfur, particularly UNSC Resolution 1769 on the AU-Un hybrid operation and the agreement to hold peace talks in Libya on 27 October 2007.

76. The Meeting demanded the participation of all rebel groups in these decisive and final talks and called upon the international community to take the necessary punitive measures against individuals or groups that reject participation in the peace talks or in any way undermine the peace process.

77. The Meeting strongly condemned the recent murderous rebel attack against AMIS personnel in Darfur and expressed its sympathy and condolences to the families, countries, governments and colleagues of those who lost their lives in this tragic incident.

78. The Meeting reiterated the call for the constitution of a Ministerial Committee on the Sudan in order to follow-up on the issue of providing financial contributions by Member States to support the development plans in the country and in the war-affected areas and draw up a timetable for these efforts according to the priorities proposed by the Government of Sudan. It further called upon international community and donors to honor their commitments pledged in the Oslo Conference for Reconstruction of the Sudan with a view to ensuring full and effective implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

SOMALIA

79. The Meeting reaffirmed its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia, consistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

80. The Meeting welcomed the outcome of the recently concluded Somali National Reconciliation Congress (SNRC) in Somalia. The Meeting commended the signing ceremony of the agreement of the SNRC in Jeddah under the patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and

expressed its full appreciation to the Kingdom for hosting H.E. Mr. Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed, President of the Somali Republic and his delegation.

81. The Meeting underlined its appreciation for the efforts of the Ugandan Forces currently deployed in Mogadishu under AMISOM and Uganda's invaluable contribution to peace and stability in Somalia and condemned any hostility towards it. The Meeting called on Member States of the African Union to contribute troops for AMISOM, and on other States and partners to provide financial, technical and logistical support for this effort.

82. The Meeting expressed its grave concern regarding the recent pattern of attacks by extremist elements in Somalia, including the increased use of explosive devices, and condemned all attempts to use violence to undermine peace and stability in the country.

83. The Meeting emphasized the urgent need for a United Nations Peacekeeping force to be deployed in Somalia to contribute to peace and stability in the country and requested the Security Council to authorize such a United Nations Peacekeeping Force.

84. The Meeting also urged OIC Member States to provide troops and other assistance to the possible deployment of the United Nations Peace Keeping forces in Somalia in order to support peace and stability in the country.

85. The Meeting expressed its gratitude to all those donors who have supported the peace process in Somalia and encouraged donor countries, regional and sub-regional organizations to contribute to the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Somalia, in particular through the mechanism of the Rapid Assistance Programme towards disarmament and demobilization in the country.

86. The Meeting welcomed the Somali Government's commitment to draw up a roadmap for the remainder of the transitional period leading to multiparty, free and democratic elections in 2009 as set out in the Transitional Federal Charter.

KOSOVO

87. The Meeting recognized that the Kosovo issue has entered into a crucial phase. It also recognized Mr. Ahtisaari's efforts and other contributions and considered that the outcome in this regard would contribute to the maintenance of stability in Kosovo. The Meeting expressed its hope that the international community work together constructively on the issue of Kosovo, and called upon the UN Security Council to address, on equal footing, all other issues pertaining to the maintenance of international peace and security.

88. The Meeting supported the efforts of the US-EU-Russia Troika within the framework of the Contact Group, including the direct negotiations between the concerned parties in good faith. It supported the Troika's assessment that the status quo is not sustainable. It expressed its hope that the international community continues to work together constructively, and stressed the need to find a peaceful, realistic and lasting solution to this unique case where all Kosovars can live in peace, harmony and prosperity

HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

89. The Meeting invited the OIC General Secretariat to pursue its humanitarian action in the Member States and to give increasing attention to protecting the most vulnerable social groups. In order to do so, the Meeting invited the OIC General Secretariat to strengthen its partnership relations with United Nations organs and agencies working in the humanitarian field in addition to the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) of the Member States.

90. The Meeting called for the early establishment of a department for humanitarian affairs in the General Secretariat.

91. The Meeting expressed satisfaction with the major developmental and humanitarian activities of the OIC funds for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Afghanistan and Sierra Leone in furtherance of the spirit of solidarity and cooperation within the Ummah. It urged Member States, the Islamic Development Bank and the Islamic Solidarity Fund to support the Funds. The Meeting also recommended Member States to make good use of them when implementing their projects meant for the above-mentioned countries.

92. The Meeting expressed its satisfaction at the convening in Doha on 12-13 June 2007 of the 1st OIC International Donors Conference to consolidate food security in the Republic of Niger in order to enable it to consolidate and secure its strategic food reserves and develop its agriculture with a view to putting an end to the recurrent food shortages in this country. In this respect, the Meeting warmly congratulated the Government of the State of Qatar for having graciously hosted this Conference and thus contributing to the success of these important proceedings. The Meeting exhorted all participants therein to work for the concrete realization of the pledges and commitments made in order to enable this programme to get off the ground as soon as possible. The Meeting also appealed to the Member States and organizations to come to the rescue of the Sahelian countries and curb the recurrence of humanitarian disasters in the region.

93. The Meeting expressed its satisfaction with the remarkable success achieved by the OIC Alliance for the Safeguard of the Children Victims of Tsunami in Indonesia, which in two years has been able to assume the care of more than 19,000 orphans for a period of 15 years. In addition, the Meeting exhorted all the Member States as well as civil society to continue to lend their support to this important humanitarian project.

94. The Meeting expressed its satisfaction following the dispatch of a joint OIC-IDB mission to The Sudan in order to study and adopt practical modalities needed for urgent assistance to be extended to the Darfur states with a view of organizing the next Donors Conference for the development of Darfur.

UNILATERAL MEASURES

95. The Meeting reiterated its rejection of unilateral economic measures and attempts to impose unilateral economic sanctions on Member States. It expressed solidarity with Member States that are affected by such unilateral sanctions and requested that they be lifted immediately.

96. The Meeting reaffirmed, once again, Libya's legitimate right to reparations for the damages it sustained as a result of unlawful sanctions. The Meeting, reaffirming

the previous positions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), deeply regretted the Verdict issued against the Libyan Citizen Abdelbassit Al-Megrahi, and demanded his release, since his illegal conviction was based on pure political motive as was confirmed by the United Nations Observers, Eminent International Lawyers and witnesses. In this respect, the Meeting called on the international community and human rights organizations to intensify pressure on the governments concerned in order to ensure a prompt release of the Libyan Citizen.

DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION

97. The Meeting expressed its concern over the current impasse on issues related to disarmament and non-proliferation and called for a renewed determination towards achieving a balanced consensus on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects. The Meeting also emphasized the imperative of promoting multilateral diplomacy in resolving disarmament and non-proliferation concerns, and, in this context, underlined that treaty-based multilateral institutions established under the auspices of the United Nations are the sole legitimate bodies to verify and ensure compliance with relevant international agreements.

98. The Meeting reiterated the proposal on the convening of a special session of the United Nations General Assembly as soon as possible with a view to reaffirming guidelines, principles and the priority of nuclear disarmament set out in the First Special Session devoted to Disarmament, assessing its implementation and evolving additional guidelines and practical measures, taking into account the existing and emerging challenges in the area of Disarmament and non-Proliferation.

99. The Meeting noted with concern the growing trend among some States to seek bilateral deals in the area of civil nuclear cooperation, with States that do not have a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the IAEA. This is a manifestation of double standards and discrimination and is in contravention to the commitments and obligations under the NPT. The Meeting cautioned that such selective approaches, based on narrow commercial and strategic interests, would undermine the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

100. The Meeting, while noting the adoption of the United Nations Security Council resolutions 1540 of 28 April 2004 and 1673 of 27 April 2006, the scope of which remains limited to preventing the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by non-state actors, reaffirmed that adoption of these resolutions represents temporary arrangement to fill a gap in international rules. It also reiterated that the Security Council can not assume legislative responsibilities in matters pertaining to non-proliferation and disarmament issues, since those States which seek to perpetuate the monopoly of nuclear weapons also wield the power of the veto in the Council. In this regard, the Meeting renewed its call for concluding a non-discriminatory and universally negotiated international treaty on the elimination of WMDs which should replace the temporary arrangements assumed by the Security Council under resolutions 1540 and 1673.

101. The Meeting while noting the on-going talks between Pakistan and India over conventional and nuclear confidence building measures welcomed the proposal by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for a Strategic Restraint Regime in South Asia to promote strategic stability and security.

102. The Meeting welcomed the signing of the Treaty on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia in Semipalatinsk on 8 September 2006 by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and considered this effort by five Central Asian Countries, which are all Member States of the OIC, as an effective contribution to strengthening regional and global peace and security.

103. The Meeting urged all parties directly concerned to consider seriously taking practical and urgent steps required for implementing the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and warned against the dire consequences of the continuing rejection of Israel to accede to the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under the full scope of the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In this regard, the Meeting supported the draft resolution submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic to the Security Council on 29 December 2003 regarding the establishment of a zone free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and called upon the Security Council to act positively on the draft to achieve that lofty goal in the region.

104. The Meeting reaffirmed the need for total nuclear disarmament and for the elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. It called on Member States to actively take part in all related international initiatives and conferences. It called on all Member States to ratify fair and non-discriminatory international conventions and to encourage the establishment of nuclear weapon-free zones. It strongly condemned Israel for developing nuclear weapons and persistently refusing to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency access to its nuclear facilities in violation of all international agreements on nuclear proliferation.

105. The Meeting strongly condemned the statement made by the Prime Minister of Israel on 11 December 2006, in his interview with a German TV channel, in which he publicly admitted the possession of nuclear weapons by Israel.

106. The Meeting, while reaffirming the inalienable rights of Member States, including Iran, without discrimination, to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, as enshrined in the NPT and the Statute of the IAEA, called and supported firmly the settlement of all outstanding issues exclusively by peaceful means and through negotiations, without preconditions and in the framework of the IAEA and in accordance with the NPT and the statute of the IAEA. It expressed concern over the pressure being mounted on Iran and its potential consequences for peace and security in and outside the region, and expressed its support and solidarity with that country. The Meeting also appreciated the cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the IAEA.

TERRORISM

107. Recalling Section VI of the Ten Year Program of Action adopted at the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al Mukarramah in December 2005, and Resolution 12/33-P adopted at the 33rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Baku in June 2006, the Meeting emphasized that terrorism completely contradicts the peaceful nature of the teachings of Islam, which urge tolerance, mercy and non-violence. It also

condemned any connection between terrorism and any race, religion and culture. It renewed the call for an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to define terrorism and to distinguish it from the legitimate struggle of people under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination in accordance with the United Nations Charter and international law. It also called for a high-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on terrorism. It reiterated its welcome and support for the resolution issued by the International Conference on Combating Terrorism, which was held in Riyadh on 5-8 February 2005, relating to the establishment of an International Counter-Terrorism Center under the aegis of the United Nations, with a view to immediately exchange information as well as for cooperation and coordination among Member States in order to strengthen efforts to combat this dangerous phenomenon.

108. The Meeting emphasized that terrorism continues to pose a threat to international peace, security and stability. It does not have any justification and should be condemned unreservedly. Terrorism has no particular religion, race, ethnic origin, nationality or a geographic region. In this vein, any attempt to associate terrorism with any religion, especially with Islam would serve the interests of terrorists. It is not possible to combat terrorism effectively without international solidarity and cooperation. The international community should therefore agree to a common and consistent approach in identifying, defining, condemning, isolating and punishing all terrorists and their supports. Due to the transnational nature of terrorism, the efforts to fight against it should be carried out on a global scale. United Nations is the main forum to promote international cooperation against terrorism. Full compliance with the provisions of the UN Security Council resolutions and international conventions on the fight against terrorism is vitally important. Moreover, the Meeting rejected politically motivated attempts to unjustly associate Islam or any Islamic country with terrorism.

109. The Meeting took note of the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and called for a review mechanism to provide a comprehensive Strategy which duly takes into account the root causes of terrorism and draw distinction between terrorism and the struggle for the right of self determination by the people under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination. The Meeting recognized that foreign occupation, state terrorism, political and economic injustice and denial of right of self-determination to people are the main root causes of terrorism. The Meeting recognized that a time-structured approach, envisaging short, medium, and long term objectives, to the implementation of the strategy could best accommodate the contentious issues related to the strategy.

110. The Meeting also reaffirmed its determination to make every effort to reach an agreement on and conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, including by resolving the outstanding issues related to the legal definition of terrorism and scope of the acts covered by the convention, so that it can serve as an effective instrument to counter terrorism.

111. The Meeting took note of the statement of the President of the Security Council reference S/PRST/2007/26 condemning the terrorist attack that took place in Marib, Republic of Yemen, on 2 July 2007, and expressed its deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims of these attacks and their families, and to the peoples and Governments of the Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of Spain.

112. The Meeting also took note of the Statements of the President of the Security Council S/PRST/2007/10 and S/PRST/2007/32, condemning the terrorist attacks that took place in Algeria in April and September 2007 respectively, and expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims of these attacks and their families, and to the people and Government of Algeria.

113. The Meeting emphasized the importance to address the use of internet by terrorists and requested all countries to take the necessary measures to combat such use.

114. The Meeting expressed its deep appreciation and warmest thanks to his Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Tunisian Republic, for his decision to host under his patronage the "International Conference on Terrorism: Dimensions, Threats and Countermeasures" in Tunis on 15-17 November 2007.

UN REFORM

115. The Meeting supported a comprehensive reform of the United Nations Organization to respond to the challenges facing humanity. The Meeting reiterated the need for evolving common perceptions and agreed approaches to address both the new and existing threats to international peace and security in the context of multilateralism. The Meeting also reiterated the OIC's stance in support of the principle of the United Nations reform, including the expansion of the Security Council's membership, in accordance with the relevant UNGA resolutions, and taking into consideration the principles of sovereign equality of all States and the need to ensure equitable geographic distribution.

116. The Meeting emphasized that the question of reform and expansion of the UN Security Council continues to be the primary preoccupation of the UN membership, including all OIC Member States for whom this is a matter of direct and vital interest. It, therefore, called on its Member States to actively and constructively take part in the UN reform process in accordance with the relevant declarations, statements and resolutions issued by the OIC. It emphasized the importance of a comprehensive reform enhancing the transparency, accountability, representativeness and democratization of the Security Council through the improvement of its working methods and legitimacy and effectiveness of its decision-making process. The Meeting reaffirmed its principled position that any reform of the Security Council must ensure adequate representation of the OIC Member States in any category of membership of the expanded Security Council.

117. The Meeting highlighted that in the current era of regional blocks, the OIC is the largest institution after the United Nations, which brings together one-fifth of the world population. The OIC's demand for adequate representation in the Security Council is in keeping with the significant demographic and political weight of the OIC Member States, which bears particular importance, not only from the perspective of increased efficiency, but also to ensure the representation of the main forms of civilization in the Security Council. It therefore reaffirmed its decision that any reform proposal which neglects the adequate representation of the Islamic Ummah in any category of membership in an extended Security Council will not be acceptable to the Islamic World.

118. The Meeting also stressed an increased role of regional groups in determining their representation on the Council. It also recognized that there was wide support for increasing the number of non-permanent members in the Security Council.

119. The Meeting took note of the progress made in the discussions on Security Council reform during the 61st Session of the General Assembly, guided by the President of the Assembly. The Meeting underlined that the reform of the Security Council must be achieved with the broadest possible agreement. In this context, and keeping in view the continuing divergent positions among UN Member States on important aspects of Security Council reform, the Meeting stressed the importance of further constructive consultations between all UN Member States to agree on a common basis and framework for further progress without imposing any time limits or pushing divisive votes. In that regard, it called for building upon the points of convergence such as the need to enlarge the Council, to increase the representation of developing countries, and to improve the working methods and transparency of the Council's work.

120. The Meeting rejected any efforts to abuse the Security Council as a tool to pursue certain political and national agendas and stressed on the importance of non-selectivity and impartiality in the work of the Council.

121. The Meeting took note of the important contribution being made by the United Nations Peace Building Commission (PBC) as the intergovernmental advisory body to address the special needs of countries emerging from conflict and to assist them in laying the foundation for sustainable development. It expressed its profound appreciation for the active and constructive participation of the OIC Member States that are members of the Commission, namely Bangladesh, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Nigeria and Pakistan. It welcomed the invitation to the Organization of the Islamic Conference to participate in all Meetings of the Commission and expressed the continued engagement and support of the Organization to the work of the Commission. The Meeting agreed on the importance of the OIC General Secretariat to contribute to the Peace-building Fund, and in this regard, it requested the OIC Member States to consider providing financial contributions to the OIC Secretary General such that they may be transferred as the Organization's contribution to the Fund.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

122. The Meeting strongly condemned the publication of offensive, provocative, irresponsible and blasphemous caricatures of the Prophet (PBUH) in the print and electronic media of some Western countries under the pretext of freedom of expression and press freedom. It stressed that the right to freedom of expression should be exercised with responsibility and in accordance with the law.

123. The Meeting expressed its deep concern over the growing phenomenon of intolerance and discrimination against Muslim communities in non-OIC Member States, particularly in the West, including the promulgation and oppressive application of restrictive laws and other measures. It emphasized that all Islamophobic practices constitute an infringement of human dignity and contradict the provisions of the international human rights documents.

124. The Meeting emphasized the need to develop, at the United Nations, including the Human Rights Council, a legally binding international instrument to promote

respect for all religions and cultural values and prevent intolerance, discrimination and the instigation of hatred against any group or followers of any religion.

125. The Meeting expressed its appreciation and full satisfaction for the laudable collective efforts of the OIC Group in Geneva to coordinate and harmonize the positions of the OIC Member States within the Human Rights Council; to deploy collective and intensive efforts to enable the HRC to take concrete measures for the respect and protection of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and in Lebanon; to place two crucial issues for the OIC namely the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the issue of incitement to racial and religious hatred and the promotion of tolerance at the top of the permanent agenda of the Human Rights Council.

126. The Meeting expressed its appreciation for the active participation of Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and Tunisia in decision-making and institutional building process of the United Nations Human Rights Council and valuable efforts of the OIC Group in Geneva in taking a common position within the Council on matters of special interest to the OIC Member States.

127. The Meeting expressed its opposition to the practice of submitting country-specific resolutions on human rights situations which are selectively targeting developing and Islamic countries. It reaffirmed that this practice is one of the main reasons that transforms the work of human rights bodies into an extremely political exercise rather than contributing to the advancement of the cause of human rights.

128. The Meeting welcomed the progress made in the elaboration of modalities of the Universal Periodic Review within the framework of institutional building of the Human Rights Council, and looks forward to its early functioning as an innovative cooperative mechanism to promote the universality, interdependence, indivisibility and interrelatedness of all human rights and to ensure universal coverage and equal treatment of all States.

129. The Meeting stressed the need to find fair and just solutions to the problems facing Muslim minorities in the world, including in particular denying them the right to exercise their political, civil and cultural rights, the gross human rights violations which at times amount to ethnic cleansing, in addition to religious and sectarian segregation, socio-economic backwardness, and exclusion from effective political activity in their countries.

130. The Meeting agreed that the General Assembly representing universal membership, in accordance with the United Nations Charter must be enabled to exercise its authority in addressing all major issues, including peace and security, development and human rights. The Meeting further called for halting and reversing the encroachment by the Security Council on the Assembly's prerogatives and functions.

131. The Meeting reiterated its deep concern over the conditions of the Muslim minority in India. It urged the Government of India to take effective and immediate measures to end all violence and policies of discrimination against Muslims. The Meeting also reiterated its mandate to the General Secretariat to monitor the situation of Muslims in India and to collect further information on the challenges

and difficulties that they are facing politically, socially and culturally, and to submit a report in this regard to the next ICFM.

DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

132. The Meeting, recognizing the central role of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in the promotion of socio-economic development, called for strengthening its role as an effective policy dialogue platform and to use its mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. In this context, the Meeting welcomed the first Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and the launch of the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) under the ECOSOC to further strengthen the leading role of this UN body on economic policy-making.

133. The Meeting took note of the final documents adopted in the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Tunisia from 16 through 18 November 2005, following the first phase held in Geneva in December 2003, and emphasized the need for building on the commitments made in Geneva and Tunis by focusing on efforts aimed at bridging the gap between developing countries and industrial countries. It called on the Member States to focus on the follow-up of the Geneva and Tunis decisions, including by participating actively in the Internet Governance Forum.

134. The Meeting reaffirmed the need to strengthen the role and capacity of the United Nations system to assist developing countries' efforts to achieve the internationally-agreed development goals, particularly goal number 8 of the Millennium Development Goals which calls for developing a Global Partnership for Development and substantial increase in development assistance to achieve these goals.

135. The Meeting emphasized the need for the promotion of the new global economic order aimed at reversing the growing disparity between the rich and poor, both among and within countries through, inter alia, the eradication of poverty, the promotion of sustainable development, and the realization of the just aspiration of all peoples. In this regard, the Meeting also called for special attention to African Development issues and stressed the support of the international community to the NEPAD programme.

136. The Meeting reiterated that the pursuance of sustainable development should be the priority of all countries through the implementation of all internationally-agreed development goals and objectives at all levels, including those contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Declaration, and the Brussels Programme of Action for LDCs, and the Almaty Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries. The Meeting also stressed that the multilateral trading and financial systems should be open, equitable, rule-based, non-discriminatory and sensitive to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) situation. In this context, it urged the international community to facilitate the accession of those OIC Member States that seek to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) on fair terms, irrespective of political considerations.

137. The Meeting urged the developed countries that have not done so, to materialize the target of 0.7% of GNP for official development assistance set for end

of 2007, in order to enable the developing countries to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as set by 2015. In this connection particular attention should be given to the implementation of the Monterrey Declaration.

138. The Meeting welcomed the launch of the OIC Poverty Alleviation Fund with an initial budget of 1.57 billion US Dollars aimed at poverty alleviation in Islamic countries with a particular focus on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

139. The Meeting called on United Nations Member States for the full implementation of the resolutions and the decisions of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) concerning the return of cultural properties to the peoples who were or still are under colonial rule or foreign occupation. It also stressed the need for UNESCO to identify the stolen or illegally exported cultural properties in accordance with the relevant conventions on the subject. It emphasized the need to expedite the process of returning these properties to their countries of origin, in compliance with the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly. It further emphasized the right of the Islamic countries to maintain and conserve their national heritage, as it constitutes the foundation of the cultural identity of these countries.

140. The Meeting welcomed the outcome of the First OIC Anti-Corruption and Enhancing Integrity Forum held from 28-30 August 2006 in Kuala Lumpur and the follow-up Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Task Force held from 9 to 11 January 2007 also in Kuala Lumpur that inter alia examined the mechanisms to increase cooperation among Member States to address elements of corruption and agreed to establish a Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur to coordinate this effort.

141. The Meeting expressed its appreciation for Malaysia's hosting of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers (12 to 15 June 2007) which is in line with the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action that focuses on issues relating to vaccines for preventable diseases and its production in OIC member countries.

142. The Meeting expressed its satisfaction with the outcome of the 3rd annual World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) held from 27 to 29 May 2007 in Kuala Lumpur that aims at strengthening business collaboration among Muslim businessmen throughout the world.

143. The Meeting expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the OIC General Secretariat to ensure an effective presence of the Organization on the international scene, and in international fora in particular in total collaboration and coordination with the Chairmen of the Contact Groups and the OIC Ambassadorial groups in New York, Geneva, Paris (UNESCO) and Vienna.

SUPPORT TO OIC MEMBER STATES' CANDIDATES AND PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION OF THE OIC:

144. The Meeting reaffirmed the principled position of the OIC that where there are any OIC Member States candidates for senior United Nations positions, the OIC will support them.

145. The Meeting expressed appreciation and satisfaction for the performance of the Permanent Observer Mission of the OIC to the United Nations in New York in discharging its duties in conformity with the resolutions of the OIC Summit and Ministerial Conferences.

146. The Meeting noted with deep concern the continued difficulties faced by the Permanent Observer Mission of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to the UN in New York due to the absence of diplomatic status of the Mission. Recognizing the central role of the Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations in New York, the Meeting urged the government of the United States of America, as the host country, to extend full diplomatic status to the Mission. The Meeting called for the establishment of Ambassadorial Level Committee in New York comprising the Troikas of the OIC Summit and the ICFM to pursue this issue with the Government of the United States.

Rationalization of the work of the Annual Coordination Meeting

147. The Meeting took note of the interventions made by the various delegations on the need to rationalize and improve the work of the Annual Coordination Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the OIC in New York. In this regard, it decided to, henceforth, make this important occasion a forum for interaction and exchange of ideas on issues of common interest to the Ummah instead of a mere occasion for long solemn declarations as is currently the case. It also called for greater coordination between the OIC General Secretariat and the OIC Group in New York.

148. The Meeting adopted the reports issued by:

I- The Six Member Group on Palestine (Annex-I).

II- The OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir (Annex-II).

III- The OIC Contact Group on Somalia (Annex – III).)

IV- The OIC Contact Group on Sierra Leone (Annex-IV).

V- The OIC Contact Group on Iraq (Annex-V).